



Year R Spring 1 Newsletter

Welcome back to the Spring Term!

We hope you all had an amazing Christmas time and we would like to wish you a very Happy New Year.

Topics

We are on a very exciting journey with your children and would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little more about how we decide the themes on which we base the children's learning. We believe that children learn best when they are immersed in the topics they love the most. This makes their learning purposeful and real and, as a result of this, they become highly motivated and engaged in all aspects of their learning. Our approach is to really get to know your child and what interests them. We will take note of these interests and plan learning opportunities based around them. We are very excited to be following a 'child-initiated curriculum' and so our topics may change a little quicker than they used to or simply change direction.

Our topic at the moment is 'Winter Wonderland' and is based on the children's interests before Christmas, which was the story of 'The Gruffalo's Child'.

Helping your child at home

The children will continue to be sent home with a reading book and their keywords. They are also encouraged to read the books available on Bug Club. These will help with their segmenting and blending skills.

It is really important that the children read for pleasure. We usually find that little and often is the key to achieving a love for reading at this early age. The reading that you do with your child at home hugely enhances their reading skills and therefore we would like to ask you to continue to listen to your child read at home regularly and practise the keywords that they have been given.

Phonics

We have now moved on to Phase 3 phonics where the children are introduced to digraphs (where two letters make one sound e.g. sh, ch, ng, ai). We encourage the children to use the correct vocabulary when talking about phonics and they will be taught the term 'digraph', segment, blend and phoneme. We will be spelling out the letter names in tricky words and then saying the word to help remember it.

Part of the Year 1 Phonics test involves the children reading 'nonsense words'. These are made up words which test the children's decoding skills (for example reg, lub, mort). We will be teaching the children about these nonsense words and any extra practice at home would be amazing.

If you do have any questions about this information, please do not hesitate to pop in and see us.

Mrs Patrick and Miss Norgate